

OBSERVATIONS

(8)

UPON THE

EAU-BRINK CUT,

WITH A

PROPOSAL

OFFERED TO THE CONSIDERATION

OF THE

FRIENDS of the DRAINAGE.

BY THE EARL OF HARDWICKE.

LONDON:

1794.

YORKE (PHILIP)
3RD EARL OF
HARDWICKE.



ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following observations intended principally to convey to the Land-owners of the South Level of the Fens, the Report of an Engineer, employed, not as an advocate for a partial purpose, but as a professional adviser upon a local question, appear to have been sent, with a variety of other pamphlets upon the same subject, to several members of the House of Commons—Upon a question of such importance to that part of the country to which it relates, and which has to encounter the opposition of a number of opulent and respectable Merchants : it is certainly desirable that every information that is likely to enable impartial and discerning men to form an opinion upon the subject should be communicated without reserve. Upon this principle, the circulation of the above observations, accompanying Mr. Hudson's Report, did not appear liable to objection. It will at least prove that no influence of an unfair description, that no interference of which any man has reason to be ashamed, has been used in the country upon
this

this occasion. That on the contrary every mode has been adopted to conciliate and enlighten those who might be prejudiced against the measure, either by the partial representations of the ill-intentioned or ill-informed ; or for want of considering the Question upon a more enlarged scale than many are usually in the habit of doing, who have been constantly resident on the same spot. That persons in that situation should have been more anxious in the first instance for the scouring out and deepening of ancient drains and watercourses in their own neighbourhood, than for the improvement of a distant outfall, is no more than might fairly be expected upon such an occasion. It is however, a fact, clear and indisputable, that, without the previous execution of that important and necessary measure, the securing of a sufficient out-fall to Sea, no interior works of drainage, can produce any other effect, than perhaps in some cases to drain the property of one man, at the hazard of over-flowing that of his neighbour.

OBSERVATIONS
UPON THE
EAU-BRINK CUT, &c.

ELY, FEB. 18. 1793.

THE Bill now in contemplation for making a New CUT from Eau-Brink to Lynn, in order to improve the Outfall, has undergone considerable discussion, and has produced a variety of letters, and pamphlets. In the midst of other avocations it would not have occurred to me to add to the collection, if it were not in the hope of offering a proposition, addressed particularly to those who are convinced of the utility of the measure, that may not only do away the objections of many individuals, but will remove, or at least considerably diminish, what, forms, in my opinion, the only objection, not to the measure it self, but to the mode of providing for its completion. Before I state the proposal which I am sanguine enough to think will be approved and adopted, I will just allude to some remarks which have been made by anonymous writers in the Cambridge Chronicle, the object of which appears to have been to impute to me a degree of inconsistency in the conduct which I have happened to observe upon this subject. It has been stated, that agreeing, as I did, with the other members of the Corporation of Bedford Level, at the meeting held at Ely in April last, 1792, that if the majority of the Land-owners were
averse

averse to the measure it ought not to proceed ; I acted inconsistently with this opinion in attending a meeting at March in the following month, and in subscribing my name, as Chairman, to Resolutions declaratory of the sense of that meeting, and favourable to the measure.—Whoever the anonymous writer of that charge of inconsistency may be, I have no great hopes of convincing him by any thing that I can urge ; but I feel it to be of some consequence not to leave the insinuation without an answer, lest he or others should suppose that it cannot be answered.

Two days of the meeting of the Bedford Level Corporation at Ely, in April last, were expressly allotted to the purpose of hearing the opinions of the country, upon the subject of the new out-fall. The meeting was principally attended by the opposers of the plan, most of them, I believe, owners of land in the South Level ; the Board heard their arguments with great attention, and the Resolution which they framed, and which was published at the time expressly stated the nature of the meeting, the manner in which it had been attended, the result drawn from it, and the opinion still entertained by the Board of the utility of the scheme.—The Board were neither parties or judges upon that occasion. As a body, possessing by law, a general superintendence and jurisdiction over a great part of the Isle of Ely, it was necessary that their rights should be preserved, and that their power over the drainage should remain unimpaired. For this reason it was proper and necessary that they should be acquainted with the nature of the scheme, the opinion of the Land-owners, and the means of effecting the plan. As individuals possessing a general knowledge of the country, and of the state of it, and largely interested in its welfare from the extent

ment of their property, they might think such a work necessary for its preservation ; but as a Board they did not feel it right to act as a party concerned, but to leave the adoption or the abandonment of the measure to the sense of the Land-owners themselves. This was the conduct of the Bedford Level Corporation at the Ely meeting in April last, in which I had neither more or less share than the other members of the Board.

The principal friends of the measure not having been aware that the Bedford Level corporation expected their attendance at Ely, were absent upon that occasion. But conceiving, that though several very respectable Land-owners of the South Level were hostile to the measure, yet the greater part of the Owners throughout the Isle were convinced of its utility, they proposed a general meeting at March on the 14th of May. I thought it my duty to attend that meeting, and at the request of the Gentlemen present I took the Chair. I was certainly of opinion at that time, that the obtaining a better out-fall was absolutely necessary to the preservation of the Isle: but if I had seen reason to be of a different opinion, or to believe that this scheme would not effect such an out-fall, I should have thought myself at liberty, notwithstanding the circumstance of my being Chairman at March, to have changed my opinion, upon being convinced that it was erroneous. In a measure of so much consequence, it was natural for every one that wished well to the interests of the country to be desirous of every information that could be furnished by professional men upon the subject, and by persons who were experienced in matters of drainage and navigation. And here I must be allowed to observe upon the extreme unfairness with which the Engineers have been treated, in order to discredit their reports and opinions. All
general

general reflections upon professions are in the highest degree illiberal: as well might it be stated that no Lawyer or Physician would ever give an impartial opinion to his Client or his Patient, as that no Engineer would give his real and impartial sentiments upon the practicability or expediency of a Canal or a Water Course. Believing therefore that much advantage would arise from the opinions of experienced and intelligent Engineers, upon the probable expediency or in expediency of the intended out-fall, I felt an inclination to add to that store of information, and determined to employ an Engineer, with a view of ascertaining the effect which the New Cut was likely to have upon the general drainage of the South-Level. An application, which I had received about that time from several Land-owners of Haddenham, induced me to specify that district more particularly, in the reference to the Engineer; and a desire to learn in what manner the property of my neighbours at Littleport, as well as my own Estate in that district, would be affected by the plan, was the cause of that parish being also particularly included in the reference.

The insertion of the application from Haddenham, with the letters that followed, will serve to render more intelligible what passed upon that occasion; and as no part of it requires concealment, the whole is now given to the public in its original form. It will besides serve as a proper introduction to Mr. Hudson's Report, which is very clear and pointed, as to the good effects that are likely to be produced by the intended Cut.

To the EARL of HARDWICKE.

MY LORD,

Permit us, the Land-owners of Haddenham Fen, to address your Lordship on the subject of the proposed Cut from Eau-Brink to Lynn. We flatter ourselves, My Lord, that a Fen thirty miles distant, and of a superior height to the land contiguous to that place, ought not to be taxed merely for the benefit of the Lands in that neighbourhood. We want, my Lord no better out-fall than we now have; the bad state of our interior Drains and Rivers is the only impediment we have which prevents our waters from running to the Sea, notwithstanding the Reports of several interested Engineers to the contrary. We do not envy, my Lord, the benefits the Land-owners of the Middle Level may experience from a new Cut, but we deem it highly unjust that the Lands, in the vicinity of Haddenham should have a Tax imposed on them to assist in such an expensive work; under such considerations we presume to petition your Lordship to oppose such measures as may be injurious to the town of Haddenham, and to the county in general.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray.

HADDENHAM, April 23, 1792.

Signed by several Land-owners, in the parish of
Haddenham.

BRIGHTHELMSTONE, July 19, 1792.

SIR,

The inclosed letter is what I wish to be read as
my answer to the letter I received some time ago from

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several

several of the Land-owners at Haddenham. I wish you to take an early opportunity of calling them together, and desiring their company to dinner, in order that you may be able to read it to them: I wish also that you would assemble in the same manner, some of the Land-owners at and about Littleport, and read it to them. Be so good as to say likewise, that if there are any other questions relating to the effect which the Cut may have, which they wish to refer to Mr. Hudson, that I shall be very ready to send them to him for his opinion; since all I wish is to ascertain as satisfactorily and distinctly as possible, what the effect of the Plan is likely to be.— I have no wish to improve my Estate at the expence of others; but I am afraid, unless something is done, that all the Estates about Littleport and in that neighbourhood, will, in the course of a few years, be of very little value. I send you the Haddenham letter in order that you may see the names that are subscribed to it; and I will beg you to fix any day that is most convenient for the purpose.

I remain, Sir,

Your humble servant,

HARDWICKE.

To Mr. Marshall and Pigott.

BRIGHTHELMSTONE, July 18, 1792.

SIR,

I am much concerned that I have been prevented, by a variety of business and engagements, from returning an earlier answer to the letter which I received some time ago, signed by several Land-owners of Haddenham

denham Fen, upon the subject of the proposed Cut from Eau-Brink to Lynn. It is certainly my wish to pay every degree of attention to the interests of the Land-owners in that neighbourhood, and in every other part of the isle; and to obtain every information which can possibly be procured upon a subject of so much importance. In order therefore to give every satisfaction to the Gentlemen of Haddenham, who have applied to me upon this occasion, I desire you will inform them, that it is my intention to employ, at my own expence, as able an Engineer as can be found, to examine with the most impartial care and attention the intended Cut, and to make such a survey of the country from thence upwards, as will enable him to give his opinion with certainty and precision, as to the effect the intended Cut will have upon the South Level in general, and upon the parishes of Haddenham and Littleport in particular. I must also request that the Land-owners of Haddenham and Littleport will permit the Engineer to consider himself as employed on their behalf.

From every thing that I have heard and read upon the subject, I cannot help thinking that the intended Cut will be of great advantage to the isle of Ely. Undoubtedly some lands will be much more benefited by it than others, for the advantage will be in proportion to the state in which they now are. Those lands which are tolerably well drained at present, will not be improved in the same proportion as those which have no means of drainage at all, and which are continually exposed to be overflowed. It is to be expected however, that some advantage will accrue to every part of the isle, and that when once a good out-fall is obtained at Lynn, the expence of Banks and of Mills, without which many

estate would be under water for a considerable part of the year, will gradually diminish, and probably become at last totally unnecessary. This, Sir, is my present opinion upon the subject, in which I am as much interested as any Land-owner in the South Level. I am however desirous to obtain every information that can be obtained upon the subject, and to contribute, as far as lies in my power, to satisfy the minds of others upon a question which is so interesting to every Land-owner and inhabitant of the Isle of Ely, and particularly of the South Level. The person to whom I have applied is Mr. Hudson, of Louth, in Lincolnshire, who has been recommended to me as an Engineer of eminence and skill. I have desired him to pay every attention to the business referred to him, and to give his real and impartial opinion upon the question, as a professional man, and as a man of honour.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

HARDWICKE,

The following are the Questions referred to Mr. Hudson:

“ What effect is the proposed Cut from Eau-Brink to
 “ Lynn, likely to have upon the South Level in gene-
 “ ral, and upon the parishes of Haddenham and Little-
 “ port in particular?”

“ Whether it is likely to improve in any considerable
 “ degree, the Lands about Littleport, now liable to in-
 “ undations; and whether in parts where the Lands are
 “ more effectually secured by banks, and drained by
 “ strong

“ strong Mills, it is likely to diminish the heavy ex-
 “ pences which attend the keeping up of such Banks and
 “ Mills?”

ELY, 28 July, 1792

MY LORD,

We are desired by the Land-Owners, who attend the meetings at Haddenham and Littleport, to present their duty, and to make their most grateful acknowledgements to your Lordship, for your kind condescension in applying yourself so ardently to the study of their interest, and generous intention of a survey at your own expence, in order to obtain and adopt the true method of promoting it; but at the same time flatter themselves, that your lordship will not think of putting yourself to that expence, when you have thoroughly weighed and considered the following reasons, founded on many years attentive observation, and facts, for their objecting to the new proposed Cut,

Viz. That in stormy rainy weather, the tides, with a north-westerly wind at their backs, are often affected to such a degree as to raise the water 18 feet perpendicular at Lynn, and the freshes or land-floods down the Hundred Foot River, have generally in such kind of weather met those heavy tides, and have by their so meeting (notwithstanding the present serpentine course of the river, and sand-banks below Eau-Brink) raised the water therein to such an height, as to run over the bank two or three inches deep, for three or four miles up the river beyond Denver Sluice, (as was the case no longer
 since

since than April. 1791) and that the tides have continued to run so high for a fortnight together, as not to give time between tide and tide for the water so sufficiently to subside at the sluice as to suffer the water in the Ouse to force open the doors thereof, and that at such times and under such circumstances, and no other, they want relief; which they presume cannot be obtained by any other means than by a discharge nearer to the sea, by Saint John's Eau, which it is presumed originally, when the old sluice was first erected, was cut for this purpose, but when that fell to decay, was neglected as of no use, and suffered to grow up, but on erecting the present sluice, ought to have been properly scoured and cleansed, to answer the purpose first intended, that of a flaker on such occasions §. That as soon as those high tides are off, and they ebb moderately again at Lynn, relief is obtained and the waters in four or five days so run out of the Ouse as scarcely to leave a sufficiency to render it navigable *.— This shews there is no deficiency in the Outfall, which instead of growing worse is daily mending, and has been for thirty years past, as at that period of time back, the water was used to remain, and not get off all the summer. And with respect to the new proposed Cut, if it should be carried into execution, there is all the reason in the

§ No internal works would be of any avail, unless the outfall itself at the mouth of the River Ouse is considerably lowered.

* This circumstance is one of the strongest arguments that can be adduced in favor of the plan, as it affects navigation as well as drainage, for if after the flood waters have run off, there is scarcely a sufficiency of water in the Ouse to render it navigable, it clearly proves the necessity of deepening the outfall, and of giving a free course to the natural waters of the country.

world

world to conclude, that the shortness of the distance it will have no run, to what it now has, added to its direct course, will cause the tide to ebb with double its present force and rapidity, and consequently (as is admitted by the engineers themselves) raise the water higher by 6 inches than in the present situation of the river, and put the South Level in still greater jeopardy than ever, as it will then, with the two inches it ran over (as before observed in April, 1791) be subject to run over full 8 inches, and the water thus run in, can have no method of being conveyed back to sea, but must remain in the fen to be pumped out, and in all probability render more mills necessary, and the expences attending them much heavier than the present †. In cases of raking high tides, as above-mentioned, it is almost clear to a certainty, that notwithstanding the New Cut, the Ouze would still be in the same situation, as the waters would of course be as high there in proportion as at Lynn, which would at such periods prevent the opening of the sluice-doors between tide and tide; and unless the Cut would tend to afford relief at such times, it is impossible it can be of any utility to the South Level, but most probably may as doubtful in its effect, if carried into execution, and should miscarry, turn out greatly to its injury, and load it with a lasting, heavy, burthensome tax and tonnage in addition to that injury.

Some gentlemen have held out the benefit received by the Wisbech River, in consequence of that Cut, as fi-

† There is no doubt that the Corporation of Bedford Level will raise the bank of the New Bedford River, if it should be necessary, in order to prevent the overflowing of the water at high tides. It is, however, not probable that it will be necessary; for though the tide from an encrease of force might flow some miles farther up the river than it now does, yet it would not upon that account necessarily encrease the height of the water.

milar to that the Ouze will receive by the intended Cut at Eau-Brink, which it is supposed cannot be, but must be totally dissimilar, as differently circumstanced, in having no obstruction in its course to sea; whereas the Ouze is obstructed by the weight of water from sea, and down the Hundred Foot. Was there a river cross Well Fen, which emptied itself by sluice doors in Wisbech River, that indeed would be circumstanced as the Ouze is with the Hundred Foot; and it may very safely be affirmed, would not run out a single hoghead, till the water was down in the Wisbech River.

These, my lord, are the sentiments of the land-owners, which, in conformity to their request, we humbly beg leave to lay before your Lordship.

And are, My Lord,
Your Lordship's most dutiful and
Obedient Humble Servants,
W. MARSHALL,
RD. PIGOTT.

To the RIGHT HON. the Earl of HARDWICKE.

*Report of Mr. Hudson upon the points referred to him by
the Earl of Hardwicke.*

MY LORD,

In compliance with your Lordship's request, made to me in your letter on the 18th of July last, on the 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th days of August following, I took a view of the harbour of Lynn, and the ground where the New Cut from Eau-Brink to near the town of Lynn is intended to be made, and of the crooked.

crooked, wide, and shallow channels of the River Ouze between those two places, and from thence by its course to Denver Sluice, where by accident I met Mr. Saffery of Downham, who first communicated to me the Resolution made at the Rose Inn, Cambridge, on the first of that month, respecting the Cambridge Navigation, and the South Level in general.

In consequence of which I proceeded to view the Rivers Ouze and Cam, from Denver Sluice to Clayhithe, and the Outfalls of the several rivers draining into them, and also the old neglected River Ouze, from its junction with the Rivers Ouze and Cam, to the Hermitage Sluice, near Earith; and in my way viewed the fens or low lands, in the several parishes of Littleport, Ely, Thetford, Stret-ham, Wilburton, and Haddenham, as well as the rest of the fens in the said South Level, and found them very much annoyed with water. Even Haddenham, the uppermost of those fens, was then very wet, and that part of the old Ouze last mentioned, almost blocked up with weeds and decayed vegetables, and very little bank to keep out the water, and that made of very bad materials.

In consequence of that part of the old Ouze being so much neglected, and the banks so very bad, the waters thrown by the mills from the Haddenham district have no run for such water, and of course a great part of the water, thrown out by the mills, must, in the present state of the banks, soak through them, into the lands of the said district, as the greatest part of them lies in the Haddenham district throw their water into that neglected part of the old river. But if that part of the old river were restored, as above recommended, when the high country floods lowered in the Hundred-Foot River, the greatest part of

the mills water from Haddenham district, and the lands on the opposite side, would make their shortest course to sea by the Hundred-Foot River; and in time of floods, when the valve doors of the Hermitage sluice are shut, those waters would be making their way down the Ouze by Denver sluice.

I am, therefore, of opinion, that if the old neglected River, from its junction with the Cam, through the Hermitage Sluice or Lock, into the upper end of the Hundred-Foot River, were restored to a proper width and depth, the drainage of the fens in Haddenham would be greatly improved, and also the fens on the south-side of the said old river. And if the shallows in the river Ouze, from the Cam to Denver sluice, were lowered, and the proposed New Cut effectually made, I am of opinion, that in all ordinary seasons, Haddenham, Wilburton, and Streatham Fens, will be drained without the use of engines.

The Fens in Littleport, though lying much lower than Haddenham, being much nearer the Outfall, will receive the same advantage.

Of the probable Effects of the NEW CUT.

By Mr. WATTE's Plan, I find that the present Channel, between the ends of the New Cut, is five miles and five furlongs, and the length, along the proposed Cut, only two miles and six furlongs; and, therefore, the distance will be shortened something more than one half (besides the disadvantage of the Channel in that wide part of the river, being much more crooked than the river itself)

self) the velocity of the current along the New Cut will be increased more than four times, when the water is first let through it, and the head of the water above will be continually lowering in the river, and of course the velocity of the river Ouze from thence to its junction with the Cam, will be nearly doubled, by the fall acquired by making such New Cut. This will have an immediate effect upon the drainage of Littleport, and encrease the declivity of the surface of the water to the upper end of the old Ouze and Hundred-Foot Rivers, and of course very much improve the drainage of the Littleport district.

This, my Lord, is my opinion of the effects of the proposed New Cut, which, I hope, will give satisfaction to your Lordship.

I am, My Lord,

Your Lordship's,

Most obedient and faithful humble Servant,

JNO. HUDSON.

KENWICKSTHORPE, near LOUTH,

3d Nov. 1792.

After the different Reports that had been made by the Engineers who had examined the country, I am free to confess that little doubt remained in my mind of the expediency and propriety of the scheme. Indeed, whoever considers the question impartially, and independently of any particular or local objections that may be made to the means of carrying it into execution, must be convinced, that the addition of four feet or more to the out-fall must enable the owners and occupiers of lands in the Isle of Ely, and neighbouring districts, to convey to the
sea

sea exactly that depth of water from the surface of the country. The objections therefore that have been made by the Proprietors of Land within the district to be drained, arise probably from an idea that it is a plan of which the expence is certain and the benefit precarious, and that it is hard to pay a tax of four-pence per annum for ten years, or (if in one payment) of two shillings and eight-pence per acre, for land which is generally covered with water. That some parts of the isle are in that situation there is no doubt; but unless one can suppose a number of professional men either to be deceived themselves or to deceive the public wilfully and without a motive, there is the greatest reason to believe that even land so circumstanced will be rendered productive and valuable. At any rate, that acre must be of little value indeed which is not worth two shillings and eight-pence to save it. Certain it is, that sum, small as it appears to be, may be an object to a poor man, (though the owner of an acre of fen land;) and the payment of it, whether called for at once, or by annual payments of four-pence per acre, may be felt as an inconvenience. It is from a conviction of this circumstance, and with a view to alleviate (if possible) that inconvenience, that I venture to submit to those who are convinced of the utility of the intended Cut, and are friendly to the measure, the following proposal. To open a subscription, for the purpose of aiding the smaller Land-owners in the payment of the Acre Tax. To a subscription for such an object I will give the sum of five hundred pounds, and I have no doubt that there is both spirit and liberality enough among the friends of the measure, to raise a considerable sum. There are in the isle a number of opulent persons who will undoubtedly be willing to assist their poorer neighbours in promoting a scheme so beneficial to them all; and I am
ready

ready in this public manner to pledge myself, whenever a sum of 2,500l. shall be subscribed, in addition to the sum of 500l. which I consider as dedicated to such a purpose, to make a further addition of a similar sum, to be applied in the same manner, if necessary. If there shall be any money remaining beyond that which may be necessary to pay the tax for such small Land-owners, whose claims may be admitted, it may be applied in aid of the interior drainage of those districts which most require it. A fund, raised in the manner proposed, may be easily managed by a committee of persons acquainted with the different districts and parishes, who may receive and judge of any applications that may be made to them. The money so subscribed being lodged in the hands of some banker of eminence and credit, before the taxes are made payable by the act, will of course be made liable to the drafts of the different committees, in favour of such persons as may have applied for the benefit of it, and appear to them proper objects for such assistance.

The chief object of this address to the persons who are concerned in the effect of the intended drainage, being, to offer the proposal that has been just stated, of raising a subscription in aid of the smaller Land-owners, it would be unnecessary to enter into the particular arguments that have been urged either on one side or the other, were I more competent than I feel myself to be, either to combat or support the local observations which have been brought forward in the course of the enquiry. Such discussion would be now foreign to the purpose.

Upon a general view of the question, I was of opinion from the beginning, that the scheme promised the greatest advantages to the whole Level of the Fens; and every thing that I have since read
and

and heard upon the subject, has tended to confirm me in that opinion. Indeed, if the plan is properly executed, with a fair view to the public benefit, without any part of the fund being diverted from the main object, it is likely to prove in its consequences the most effectual plan that has been suggested for the improvement of the Fens since their original drainage in the last century by the Earl of Bedford. It is an object of great importance, in a national view, to bring into a more certain state of cultivation a considerable tract of country, the produce of which is comparatively small, and to render fruitful other districts that now produce neither corn or herbage, and are incapable of any cultivation at all. So great indeed is the importance of encreasing the produce of the country at large, that if grants of public money were ever made for local purposes, there is no object that could form a more proper ground for an application to Parliament.

It is now generally admitted, by those who have written upon the political economy of England, that the improvement and extension of agriculture, considerable as it may appear to be, has not kept pace with the encrease of luxury, or even with the demands of an encreased population. The great encrease in the annual importation of corn, and particularly of that sort of corn * which

* In order to illustrate what is here advanced, the following account of the quantities of Oats imported into Great Britain during two periods of 18 years is here inserted.

Quantities of Oats imported into Great Britain for 18 years, from 5th January 1770, to 5th January 1789—

			Qrs.
Imported	—	—	5,245,300
Exported	—	—	464,433

Balance imported 4,780,867.

For 18 years from 1748 to 1765—

			Qrs.	Bushs.
Imported	—	—	578,532	—3
Exported	—	—	379,211	—1

Balance imported 199,321—2.
form

forms the principal part of the produce of the country that is the object of the proposed improvement, is a convincing proof of the advantage that will arise from the encrease of that produce. To the Land-owners, therefore, and cultivators of the soil, the benefit will be certain, and probably not remote. To the town of Lynn the benefits will be so evident, that it is difficult to account for the opposition of so many of the respectable merchants of that place. The operation of the New Cut would, in the opinion of the different engineers that have considered the effect of it, not only improve, but absolutely preserve the harbour of Lynn.

The improvement of the country in the neighbouring districts cannot fail to contribute to the encrease of the trade, and of the general prosperity of the town. The bringing of new land into a state of cultivation, will render necessary the construction of barns, of farm-houses and cottages, the materials for which must be supplied by Lynn. The improvement of the harbour must of necessity increase the general trade of the place, by opening the door to new enterprise, and of course to the introduction of new ship-owners and new merchants. At present the shipping of Lynn is calculated for their trade only, and for the present state of the channel, and no vessel with a sharp floor, and which is not of their own peculiar construction, can venture into the harbour, or at least remain there with any degree of safety. The consequence of this must be the exclusion of ships from other ports, which is so evident a disadvantage to the trade of a maritime town, and so great an obstacle to the increase of the general wealth and prosperity of the inhabitants, that it is scarcely to be believed they will concur (if in truth they

they have concurred) in opposing the plan. With respect to Cambridge, the alarm originally conceived by the merchants and navigators, must be considered as a fortunate circumstance. The enquiry that it has produced, and the provisions that are inserted in the bill, will eventually not only secure, but considerably improve the navigation of the Cambridge River; and if, in addition to the works provided for in the bill, the streams above Cambridge are properly scoured and deepened, the river will receive a farther supply of water, at the same time that lands may be relieved from it which are yet very imperfectly drained from want of attention to water-courses.

POSTSCRIPT.

POSTSCRIPT.

THE attempt which has been made by Mr. Forster, the solicitor for the Lynn Opposition, to throw upon the promoters of the Eau-Brink Cut, the odium of having rejected a proposal of accomodation, makes it necessary to offer a few words upon that subject, and to examine shortly the true intent and meaning of that proposal.

I am not disposed to complain of his publication of the correspondence that passed upon that occasion, because to those who take the trouble to peruse my inconsiderable share of it it will clearly appear, that as far as depended upon me I was sincerely disposed to make every practicable concession that could be asked, and more than could reasonably be expected, for the purpose of giving a chance of preventing a contest. This I think will clearly appear to those who consider the proposal itself. "That Delegates should be chosen by the "Middle and South Levels of the Isle of Ely, by Marsh-land, by Lynn, and the Inland Navigations," not for the purpose of forming a plan themselves, but of selecting and employing engineers in order to prepare a plan for the improvement of the drainage and navigation. That the Corporation of Lynn, can at any time, and without difficulty appoint delegates, is perfectly true; but I submit it to the candid judgment of every man that takes the trouble to peruse these pages, whether such a general selection as would have been necessary in other places, could have been conducted without infinite difficulty and embarrassment, and whether after the Committee which had been appointed at the meeting of the Land-Owners at March, on the 14th of May 1792, as numerous as any that was ever likely to be assembled upon a similar occasion, it was again necessary to recur to a public meeting, for
the

the election of new delegates. Impressed with this idea, and conceiving that when I consented as far as depended upon me (and I had not the advantage of negotiating with the weight of a solicitor*) to lay out of the question every thing that had been already proposed, to forget all that had been advised and recommended by Messrs. Golborne, Watte, Mylne, Hudson, and Rennie, and to endeavour to find some other engineers not yet committed in point of opinion, I made no inconsiderable concession, and such as no one who did not sincerely and earnestly desire an amicable arrangement could ever have consented to make. I was sanguine enough to believe that the proposal was made with the same sincere desire of accommodation, and to hope that the fair and equitable substance of its being accepted a contest might have been prevented. But to this hour no satisfactory reason has been assigned, why the election of new delegates was so indispensable a preliminary to the selection of Engineers, or professional Referees, when there existed already two committees of the principal Land-Owners and Merchants, fully competent to act by the powers they had recently received for every purpose of amicable arrangement and accommodation.

To those who are disposed to examine the history of the steps taken upon this question, since it was first agitated in January 1791, I recommend the perusal of a short tract entitled, "Reasons attempting to shew the necessity of the proposed Cut from Eau-Brink to Lynn." In that pamphlet†

* In his letter of June 24, Mr. F. states himself as being intrusted to act in the negotiation on behalf of the Lynn Gentlemen, and the proposal contained in his letter of June 19, is "entitled, substance of the proposal offered on the behalf of the Merchants of Lynn."

† This pamphlet, with the Abstract of the reports and opinions upon both sides of the question, contains the substance of almost all the material information that exists upon the subject, plainly and impartially stated.

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written by a very ~~respectable~~ gentleman in the country, is contained a short statement of the grounds upon which the proposed measure is deemed necessary, and from page 15, to the conclusion, is an extract of the resolutions of the different meetings that were held in the years 1791, and 1792. From the meeting of the Land-owners, on the 14th of March, 1792, I can speak of my own personal knowledge; and I may safely affirm, that there has been every disposition to prevent a contest, and to accept any proposal of accommodation, that did not entirely defeat the measure itself. That indeed to which I ventured to accede, (short of the dissolution of the existing committee) and the adoption of which I should strongly have recommended, did in fact amount to an abandonment of the measure; the substance of it being to refer to Engineers, as a new Question, the best mode of combining the improvement of Lynn Harbour, with the drainage of the country. It would have been in the power of the Referees to avail themselves of all the information that had been recently obtained at so great an expence to the Land-owners, and either to adopt the Eau-Brink Cut, (if they thought it expedient to do so) or to recommend some other plan equally practicable and effectual for those great and important objects.

After the determination expressed* by the Lynn Gentlemen at the meeting of August 1st. 1792, not to treat with the Land-owners, but to give every opposition in their power to the plan; and after the rejection of the proposal of a reference in 1793;

* Extract of minutes at a meeting held at Cambridge, on the 1st. of August, 1792, published in the Country Paper.

" The Committee understanding that several of the Merchants of Lynn, had appointed a Committee upon the subject of the proposed Cut, desiring to know if any Committee, had been named on their part to treat with the Committee of Land-Owners, were informed by three of the Lynn Gentlemen, viz. Mr. Hogg, Mr. Elfdon, and Mr. Everard, that no other Committee had been appointed than one to oppose the plan.

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there certainly remained no farther hope of an amicable termination of the contest. The facts that have been stated will enable men of impartiality and candour (and it is to such only that I presume to address myself) to determine to which of the two parties the charge of preventing an accommodation can with most propriety be applied.

The part I have taken in this question, so interesting to an extensive district of country, is the result of a sincere conviction that the plan which has been proposed to Parliament, and which is now submitted to their justice and discernment, is founded upon true principles of navigation as well as of drainage.*

* Vide Resolutions of the Bedford Level Corporation.

